

[Bossini]

Beliefs and Customs - Folk Stuff 16

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled Out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth ———— Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 47 W. 69th Street 152 W. 13th Street

DATE March 6, 1939

SUBJECT BOSSINI

1. Date and time of interview April 4, 1939
2. Place of interview Furriers Union 250 West 26th Street New York City
3. Name and address of informant Mrs. Sarah Cohen
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. Miss Spiro, Educational Director
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

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Sam Schwartz

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth ———— Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 47 W. 69th Street 152 W. 13th Street

DATE March 6, 1939

SUBJECT BOSSINI BOSSINI

Was my first shop that I worked with trimmings. I didn't know the trade. I'll tell you the truth. I didn't know a thing about a union or anything. I didn't have any idea what means a union. But when I was working in the shop, came up to me the boss. "Hear, missus, when the inspector will come up and ask you, missus you should tell him you are the lady Bossini." Just like that. That point made me to understand what is a worker, a union, and a boss. As soon I finished my work that day I went up to the union and I became a worker.

I didn't know the trade. But, you know how a girl knows the needle. Every girl knows how to work with a needle. Little stitches with a needle, with a cotton. Nothing else. Straight stitches. This word "Bossini" that made me class conscious. It was a different shop, after

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1926 strike. I worked in a big shop. The boss, he knew I was an intelligent girl. I learned in the old country.

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So he comes over to me. "How can a learned person be a worker also?" And he told me. "Mrs. Cohen, yesterday I had in my house a party. I give my girl for a thousand dollars a check." I look at him. I already knew from that "Bossini". So he told me, you will excuse me. "The union should go sit on the toilet. Oi, I should only be able to give my girl more." I am with him as the goy with the jew. He works and I am helping.